

Pikangikum First Nation

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To Whom It May Concern:

Wataynikaneyap Power has successfully constructed 1,742 km of transmission line to connect 16 First Nations to the grid. The majority of the project was accomplished during the unprecedented global pandemic.

Pikangikum First Nation's Chief and Council supports Wataynikaneyap Power's application (EB-2026-0180) regarding COVID-19-related costs incurred during the construction of the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system.

Wataynikaneyap Power LP is majority-owned by First Nations through First Nation LP, a partnership of 24 First Nations that includes Pikangikum First Nation. We recognized the importance of moving forward with construction during the unprecedented global pandemic because of the urgent need for access to reliable, grid-connected electricity in communities still relying on diesel generators.

Pikangikum First Nation was in a very vulnerable situation. Not knowing what COVID-19 was, we required extensive health and safety protocols and mitigation measures to protect our First Nation members, community, project workers, and neighbouring First Nations. We set expectations to protect health and safety for all. Wataynikaneyap Power and Valard Construction LP worked diligently to minimize these impacts.

Avoiding additional costs wherever possible and ensuring due diligence, while protecting workers and communities, was a requirement. Careful management of project costs was also critical to protecting First Nation ownership and the long-term success of the project.

The application now before the Ontario Energy Board reflects costs that have been carefully assessed and validated. Importantly, we understand that approval of this application will protect the ownership interests of participating First Nations through the funding mechanisms established for the project.

We respectfully request that the Ontario Energy Board consider these factors in its review and approve Wataynikaneyap Power LP's application regarding the disposition of COVID-19-related costs.

Sincerely,

Chief and Council